Principals Note

On Tuesday 14, Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 May, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will take the 2013 NAPLAN tests. NAPLAN assesses skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time, through the school curriculum. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children. It also provides valuable information that allows schools and governments to better target effort and support to help all students achieve their potential and acquire the basic skills to help them build successful and happy lives.

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to urge them to simply do the best they can on the day. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. Parents can use this information to monitor how their child is progressing and to identify any areas of concern. Parents may also wish to use their child’s results to discuss progress with teachers. The NAPLAN 2013 Information for Parents brochure is now available. Follow the website address below to access this document.


How you can help your child on the days during NAPLAN:

- Getting plenty of sleep 10-12 hrs per night.
- Having a good breakfast each day.
- To not have to rush and be on time.
- Talk to your children about it to help with any anxiety (it's just part of our school plan)

Under 8’s

Today students in years P/1/2 received a note with information regarding Under 8’s that will be held in Dingo. Attached to the note is a tuckshop list and order form. If you wish to order, please return forms and money to Bluff School office.

School Photos

The date for our school photos has changed to August 19, please mark this date on your calendars.

Life Ed Van

We are once again lucky enough to receive a visit from the Life Ed van and Harold on June 6. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for our students. The program strives to empower children to make informed choices for a safe and healthy life. The cost per student to visit the Life Ed van is $6.00, however if we can get a volunteer to move the van from Dingo to Bluff the cost will be reduced to $4.00 per student.

Please phone the office if you can assist with Harold’s travels!
**Resources**
We still have an amount of resources that need to be catalogued so our students can start to use them. These resources have been chosen through the Earn and Learn program to best suit the requirements of the C2C. If you have anytime that you would like to come to learn the cataloguing process please contact Max in the office.

**State Education Week May 6—10**
To celebrate State Education Week on Thursday 9th May the school is having an open morning from 8.30am to 10.30am. We will begin the day with a free breakfast at 8am, afterwards you can visit your child's classroom and see all the great work they have been doing. Hope to see you there.

**Pie Drive**
Pies will be delivered on May 10.

**ANZAC Day**
Our year seven students did a fantastic job with the school ANZAC day parade. Thank you to the large number of parents and community who attended, this makes it even more special, for the students. A special thank you to Blackwater Cadets, Kel C and Sister Carmel. Kel for coming and sharing his experiences with our students and Sister Carmel for her prayer.

**School Pride at ANZAC Day March**
Congratulations to our students who participated in the town ANZAC Day March last week. We were very proud of you all. Thanks to parents for bringing them along to this event. A great tribute to the diggers. Again a big congratulations to the year seven students who spoke in the dawn and town services. You made us proud!
If there is anyone who took photos at the march or dawn service could you please email them into the school. It would be greatly appreciated.

**Text Message System**
Our text message system is now up and running. Urgent messages or important reminders will be sent out via text message. A reminder that this system is not free so it will only be used when deemed necessary.

**Book Fair**
Book fair will be held on the 27th May in conjunction with our Biggest Morning Tea. Students will be given the opportunity to preview books on Thursday 23rd to write their wish lists. Then purchases can be made on the Monday.

**5/7 Camp**
We are in the process of organising our school camp. Payment plans can start anytime from now on see Max in the office. We will keep you up to date with our progress.

**New Staff**
We would like to welcome Alison W and Jenny M to our staff. Alison will be working as a teacher aide in the 2/3/4 classroom and the library. Jenny has been employed as our ‘Closing the Gap’ teacher aide which supports indigenous and non indigenous student outcomes.

**Sports Day**
Sports day is creeping up and preparations are underway. Stephen will soon be marking the track and preparing the oval. If you can lend a hand please catch up with him!

**P&C**
The P&C filled all executive positions. Alison W has taken on the President position with Sam C being Vice, Jo J has kindly taken the position of treasurer andLisa C. The next P&C Meeting (May 14) will be a night one starting at 6:00pm.

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**Book Fair**
**Dress Up Day**
**May 27**
come as your favourite book character

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**P&C Raffle**
**Congratulations to Melanie O who won the P&C accommodation raffle**

**Next Meeting**
May 14
6:00pm
National Assessment Program (NAPLAN)
All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia will undertake common national tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy from 14 – 16 May 2013. Please see the timetable below regarding testing dates and test focus during each of the sessions. If you have any questions please contact the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 14th May</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th May</th>
<th>Thursday 16th May</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>45mins</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40mins</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Language Conventions</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>50mins</th>
<th>50mins</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40mins</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Language Conventions</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>65mins</th>
<th>40mins x 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40mins</td>
<td>Year 7 have two parts to their test</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a calculator part and non-calculator</td>
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Family is the first school for young children, and parents are powerful models.

−Alice Sterling Honig

Students of the Week

**BELOW:**
Kiara— improvement in spelling.
Tyrin— extra special effort with work.
Nate— good work with Jolly Phonics.

**ABOVE:**
Varleigha— encouraging others to do the right thing.
Charli— always doing the right thing.
Pacey— Great work ethic.
Students in our room are busy little bees at the moment. By the time you read this, we will have had our first rotations morning with parent helpers. The children are very excited about this new activity and are excited by the idea of their parents coming in to help! A big thanks to all those parents who offered to help and/or are helping.

Our English retell unit is progressing full steam ahead with students impressing me with their enthusiasm and commitment to learning all the necessary elements. Year one students are working hard on talking about characters and expressing their ideas in full, descriptive sentences. This leads into doing the same with events that occur in different stories. Our prep students are so clever that they know, can give and identify adjectives! They are also learning to talk about characters and stories in front of their peers.

The Maths focus of time wrapped up this week, with year one students learning how to give and tell digital and analogue o’clock and half past times. Prep students identified and named days of the week, sequenced these days and provided activities that they do on certain days. We will be moving into measurement activities next week.

Students began learning the Hokey Pokey in our dance unit last week, with the added benefit of correct use of left and right body parts, gross motor skills and some health understandings sneaking into the lesson.

Please keep your eyes out for the posters outside our room that provide you with some more information about our English units. This information will give parents a better understanding of the level and skills expected of students under the national curriculum. Please see me as well if you are able to help with laminating (and later the cutting of) all the resources for the Prep language program. This is a big task so any and all help is appreciated.

2/3/4 News

It’s CSI: Bluff this term as students investigate the case of the disappearing statue in our science lessons. So far students have gathered a number of clues and have a number of suspects. Through a series of experiments we hope to narrow down the list of suspects and find out what happened to the statue as the term progresses.

“Wallville” is slowly taking shape on our classroom wall with farms being established and a river winding its way through the landscape.

In maths this week we have been learning about measurement and direction. Students have become quiet skilful at entering instruction into a bee bot – a small bug-like robot – to manoeuvre it around a specially designed mat.